

Prebble, a sixth-grade student from Mount Nittany Middle School in State College, Pennsylvania. Gareth has hopes of connecting what he refers to—and rightfully so—as the divide between the physically disabled and the rest of the population.

Young Gareth took a giant step towards this goal last month when he entered the Martin Luther King Commemoration Student Showcase essay contest. The contest, sponsored by Pennsylvania State University, is titled “Reflect on Yesterday. Experience Today. Transform Tomorrow.”

Gareth, who has cerebral palsy, wrote about his life experiences: “People often look at me and make assumptions based on my appearance.” Gareth’s essay evokes Dr. King’s powerful message—for all people in this country to be treated with respect and dignity.

Mr. Speaker, Gareth went on to win this competition. I rise to congratulate him for his work and for having the strength and courage to share his story. In doing so, he is a role model for each and every one of us in how we, too, can transform the future.

TUCSON GEM AND MINERALS SHOW

(Mr. BARBER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. BARBER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to salute the Tucson Gem and Mineral Society, which next week will host the 60th annual Tucson Gem and Minerals Show.

This show began as a small club gathering, and over the past six decades, it has grown to set the standard for other such events around the world. This year’s show will be held from February 13 through 16 with the theme “60 Years of Diamonds, Gems, Silver, and Gold.”

As a result of the interest generated by this long-running event, dozens of satellite events very much like it have proliferated throughout the Tucson area. These feature gems, minerals, fossils, meteorites, and other items from around the world and are known as the Tucson Gem, Mineral and Fossil Showcase. These events bring an estimated \$100 million to southern Arizona.

None of this would have been possible without the work of the volunteers of the Tucson Gem and Mineral Society. I am proud to recognize this long-time Tucson tradition and this great organization and the economic benefits it brings to my district.

TAXMAN STEALS THE GOLD, SILVER, AND BRONZE

(Mr. POE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, America’s best athletes carry the ban-

ner of Old Glory into the Olympic Games. They are a remarkable breed and have dedicated their lives in training to represent Team USA in lands far, far away.

This year is no different as they hit the snowy Winter Games in Russia, and they are already doing quite well. As the “Star-Spangled Banner” plays, they stand on the podium to receive gold, silver, and bronze medals—but lurking in the creepy shadows of the medal ceremony is the U.S. taxman.

The IRS wants a piece of the gold even though these medals were won overseas. It is absurd that the IRS can levy a tax on these medals. These athletes are ambassadors for America. Their medals should not be taxed by the IRS. Are some winners going to have to sell their medals to pay the taxman? Who knows?

Congress should pass Congressman FARENTHOLD’s legislation this week that would keep the greedy hands of the IRS off the medals of the Olympians.

Mr. Speaker, the taxman should not be able to steal the gold, silver, and bronze.

And that’s just the way it is.

OLYMPIAN EDDY ALVAREZ

(Mr. GARCIA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GARCIA. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize a Miami native and Cuban American short-track speed skater, Eddy Alvarez.

When I first heard about this south Florida ice speed skater, I was even more astounded than when I found out about the Jamaican bobsled team. Disney may have to make a movie about this. In all seriousness, Eddy had his first competition in Sochi this morning, and he will continue competing in events this week.

Eddy learned to roller skate in south Miami, and then took to the ice, eventually competing internationally with great success. I am proud to note that Eddy attended Christopher Columbus High School and practiced at the Kendall Ice Arena—both great institutions in my district.

Eddy is a remarkable example of American determination and dedication. I wish him and his fellow Olympians all the success in Sochi.

ENDING RUSSIA’S BAN ON INTERCOUNTRY ADOPTION

(Mr. PAULSEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PAULSEN. Mr. Speaker, as millions of Americans turn their attention to Sochi for the Winter Olympics, we cannot overlook Russia’s continued ban on intercountry adoption.

Every day, families across America eagerly await news that the Russians’

ban on allowing American families to adopt Russian children has finally ended. Some families have decided to look at other places to adopt, but many are still committed to completing their adoptions. Families like the Thomases, from Minnetrista, Minnesota, have not given up hope in adopting their second child from Russia. In 2008, they completed an adoption for their son Jack. After a successful transition, they have now begun the process of adopting Jack’s younger brother, Nikolai. Unfortunately, Russia’s adoption ban has squashed any hopes of completing that adoption.

Mr. Speaker, every child, no matter where he is born, should have the opportunity to grow up in a loving family. I urge my colleagues to continue fighting to end the Russian adoption ban and to let our families bring home their children.

IN CELEBRATION OF THE LIFE OF PATRICIA McNAMARA BEAZLEY

(Ms. KAPTUR asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to the life of a great American, Patricia McNamara Beazley, a magnificent woman and citizen whom we laid to rest today in Toledo, Ohio, after a mass at Gesu Church, a place that she called home.

Pat Beazley was an extraordinary human being. The minute you met her you felt like a member of her family. She was an artist of family, a dedicated wife, mother, grandmother, great-grandmother, and an artist in her own right. Her paintings abound not just in her home but throughout our country and, certainly, in her home community.

Her son, Michael—a personal friend—her daughters, her grandchildren, her great-grandchildren, and her wonderful husband, Ben, just know that our entire community stands with you. We know what a builder of family and community Pat was. We celebrate her life—her life of love, her life of contributions to others, her very quiet way of building friendships and, in so doing, building a community that was strong—her church family, her community of artists and, obviously, her own family.

We say “thank you” to the Beazley Family for sharing Pat with us these many, many decades. We have been so blessed by her presence, and the beauty of her life and the beauty of her works will remain with us always. May she rest in peace, and may God give comfort to those who remain behind to carry forward her legacy.

[From: Toledo Blade]

Patricia Beazley, 83, an award-winning artist known for her skill in portraiture and in depicting family scenes and children, died Wednesday in her Sylvania Township home.

Mrs. Beazley developed complications after a series of strokes the last few years, her son, Michael, said. Mrs. Beazley and her loving, surviving husband, Ben, raised three